

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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P R 050802Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0285  
INFO USICA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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SECSTATE ALSO PASS WHITE HOUSE - MR. HARDEN AND PEACE CORPS;  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, LILLIAN)  
SUBJ: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT TO MALI: WRAP-UP

1. SUMMARY. "MISS LILLIAN" CARTER AND HER PARTY SPENT JULY 30 TO AUGUST 2, 1978, IN MALI, THE LAST STOP ON HER VISIT TO THE SAHEL. HER INFECTIOUS CHARM, WARMTH, HUMOR, AND ONE-SUCH PERSONALITY, COMBINED WITH GENEROUS MALIAN HOSPITALITY AND PLEASURE AT HAVING HER VISIT, MADE FOR A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TIME. SHE WAS AN EXTRA-ORDINARILY EFFECTIVE PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO PERSONIFIED U.S. INTEREST IN MALI AND THE SAHEL. THE MALIANS RESPONDED BEAUTIFULLY. END SUMMARY.

2. MISS LILLIAN AND HER PARTY WERE MET ON ARRIVAL FROM OUAGA-  
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DOUGOU SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 30, BY THE ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION) AND MEMBER OF THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (CMLN), LT. COL. YOUSSEOUF TRAORE; THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FAGNANAMA KONE; THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS (THE AMBASSADOR OF GUINEA), DAOUDA BERTE; AMBASSADOR BYRNE; THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, MAMADOU MACALOU; MADAME SIRA DIOP, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL

UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN (UNFM); AND 1,000 HAPPY, DANCING, DRUMMING, CHANTING MEMBERS OF THE UNFM. AFTER A SHORT SESSION WITH THE MALIAN AND TRAVELING PRESS, MISS LILLIAN AND THE PARTY WERE GIVEN A POLICE ESCORT TO THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THERE WAS NO FURTHER OFFICIAL PROGRAM THAT EVENING.

3. MONDAY MORNING, JULY 31, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, AMBASSADOR BYRNE, AND AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH HAD A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (REPORTED IN BAMAKO 3662).

4. THE FULL PARTY BEGAN THE DAY WITH A TOUR OF THE USAID-FINANCED CENTRAL VETERINARY LABORATORY NEAR BAMAKO, WHERE MISS LILLIAN WAS BRIEFED BY THE U.S.-TRAINED DIRECTOR, DR. DAOUDA SYLLA. HER INTEREST IN ALL THAT SHE SAW WAS MANIFEST.

5. NEXT ON THE PROGRAM WAS A MEETING FOR MISS LILLIAN WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN BAMAKO AND WITH THE EMBASSY'S MALIAN STAFF. MISS LILLIAN'S WARMTH AND PERSONALITY SHONE, AND ALL WERE DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS BRIEF CHANCE TO SEE AND HEAR HER.

6. BECAUSE PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE WAS AWAY FROM BAMAKO, THE CMLN VICE PRESIDENT, LT. COL. AMADOU BABA DIARRA (WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE) WAS HOST AT LUNCH FOR MISS LILLIAN AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. CONGRESSMENT WHALEN AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLLINS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT HARDEN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH, MRS. PORSON OF LANGUAGE SERVICES, AMBASSADOR BYRNE, AND HIGH-RANKING MALIAN OFFICIALS ALSO ATTENDED.

7. JULY 31 IS PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY, AND FOLKLORE DEMONSTRATIONS AND DANCES ARE TRADITIONALLY HELD IN MANY BAMAKO NEIGHBORHOODS. THIS YEAR, BECAUSE OF MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT, THEY WERE ALL COMBINED IN ONE ENTHUSIASTIC CELEBRATION ON MONDAY AFTERNOON UNDER THE "HONORARY PRESIDENCY" OF MISS LILLIAN, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND MALIAN OFFICIALS. SHE ENJOYED THE THOUSANDS OF BAMAKO WOMEN THERE AS MUCH AS THEY ENJOYED HER PRESENCE.

8. NEXT ON THE PROGRAM WAS A VISIT TO THE INSTITUT MARCHOUX LOPROSARIUM, A CENTER SERVING OTHER FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO MALI, SUPPORTED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS. MISS LILLIAN, EXPERIENCED IN WORK WITH LEOPERS FROM HER DAYS AS A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER NURSE IN INDIA, SAW THE RESULTS OF SOME REMARKABLE RESTORATIVE SURGERY. INHABITANTS OF THE ADJOINING LEPER VILLAGE DANCED AND DRUMMED IN HER HONOR.

9. THE FULL DAY OF JULY 31 ENDED WITH A LARGE RECEPTION/BUFFET IN MISS LILLIAN'S HONOR AT BAMAKO'S LEADING HOTEL GIVEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNFM. THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND BAMAKO'S NOTABLES WERE THERE IN FORCE. A CULTURAL PRESENTATION BY THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF MALI FOLLOWED THE DINNER.

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10. TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, SAW MISS LILLIAN VISIT THE ANCIENT COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL TOWN OF TIMBUKTU, THE LEGENDARY "PORT OF THE SAHARA." SHE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY KOKE DEMBELE, GOVERNOR OF THE SIXTH (TEMPORARILY) AND SEVENTH REGIONS; MOUSSA KEITA, GOVERNOR OF THE SIXTH REGION (WHO HAS NOT YET TAKEN OVER COMPLETE CONTROL FOLLOWING THE DIVISION OF THE SIXTH REGION INTO TWO SEPARATE AREAS); FAGNANAMA KONE, MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT; MADAME SIRA DIOP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNFM; AND VARIOUS CIVIC OFFICIALS. A BRIEF BUT ANIMATED PROGRAM OF DANCING AND MUSIC, FOLLOWED BY AN EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, ESTABLISHED INSTANT RAPPORT BETWEEN MISS LILLIAN AND HER HOST CITY.

11. UPON ENTERING TIMBUKTU SHE WAS GREETED BY 600 TUAREG  
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TRIBESMEN DRESSED IN BLUE AND MONUTED ON CAMELS, AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT. WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF TIMBUKTU THEN ENGAGED IN NON-STOP DANCING AND CHEERING AS SHE PROCEEDED TO THE PLACE DE L'INDEPENDANCE FOR FURTHER FESTIVITIES. A VISIT TO SEVERAL HISTORICAL SIGHTS PROVIDED THE RESIDENTS AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE GREETINGS WITH MISS LILLIAN, AND HER INTEREST GENERATED AN ENTHUSIASM WHICH SUSTAINED ITSELF THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE HALF-DAY VISIT. MISS LILLIAN CONCLUDED HER STAY IN TIMBUKTU BY CONFERRING IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR WITH AISSA BADOU, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN FOR THE REGION, TOWN OFFICIALS, AND PROMINENT LOCAL DIGNITARIES.

12. THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF A SEVEN-COUNTRY JOURNEY TEMPORARILY TAXED THE STAMINA OF MISS LILLIAN, AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT SHE SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN WHAT WAS STILL A FULL CULTURAL PROGRAM IN MOPTI, A NIGER RIVER CITY FAMOUS FOR ITS INDIGENOUS ARCHITECTURE AND ITS KEY ROLE IN ONE OF MALI'S MOST IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL REGIONS. UPON MISS LILLIAN'S RETURN TO BAMAKO IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON, MINISTER YOUSSEOUF TRAORE WAS ON HAND TO WELCOME HER AS HE HAD BEEN AT THE DEPARTURE THAT MORNING.

13. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, AMBASSADOR BYRNE, AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH, AND A DELEGATION DRAWN FROM MISS LILLIAN'S PARTY AND THE EMBASSY, ACCCOMPANIED BY MINISTER KONE AND MADAME DIOP, PROCEEDED BY AN AIR MALI PLANE TO MOPTI. THE GROUP WAS GREETED BY AMARA DANFAGA, GOVERNOR OF THE FIFTH REGION, A DELEGATION FROM THE UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN OF THE MOPTI REGION, AND CIVIC OFFICIALS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE EXPRESSED MISS LILLIAN'S DEEP REGRET AT HAVING BEEN FORCED TO CURTAIL THIS PORTION OF HER VISIT AND CONVEYED HER MESSAGE OF UNDERSTANDING OF SAHELIAN PROBLEMS. MALIANS IN MOPTI WERE UNDERSTANDABLY DISAPPOINTED BUT DETERMINED TO EXPRESS THEIR DELIGHT IN HAVING MR. MOOSE IN HER PLACE. WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A WELL-ORGANIZED, VIBRANT, TWO-HOUR CULTURAL FESTIVAL

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VAL, WITH THE STREET LEADING TO THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE LINED WITH DANCING, SINGING CROWDS DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL GARB AND PRESSING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FULL RANGE OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES. FOLLOWING A LARGE LUNCH, THE PARTY HEARD A MODERN MOPTI ORCHESTRA AND WITNESSED BOAT RACES ON THE NIGER AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF MALIAN RIVER PEOPLE'S AQUATIC SKILLS. MR. MOOSE AND THE DELEGATION THEN MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEACE CORPS AND AID FROM PROJECTS IN THE MOPTI REGION, AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, AND

AID CONTRACT EMPLOYEES. THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THE KEY ROLE PLAYED BY AMERICANS IN THEIR VARIOUS CAPACITIES IN SUPPORTING THE AMBITIOUS AND PROMISING PROGRAM OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, A GOOD SHARE OF WHICH FOCUSES ON THE MOPTI REGION. WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN BAMAKO WOULD PREVENT A RETURN TO BAMAKO THAT EVENING, MR. MOOSE AND HIS PARTY CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH MALIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN PROJECTS IN WHICH AMERICAN ASSISTANCE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART. DESPITE A 6:00 A.M. DEPARTURE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, GOVERNOR DANFAGA AND A LARGE CONTINGENT OF DIGNITARIES GATHERED AT THE AIRPORT TO SEE OFF THE PARTY.

14. FOR THOSE WHO HAD GONE BACK TO BAMAKO WITH MISS LILLIAN, THERE WAS AN INFORMAL END-OF-TRIP PARTY AND DINNER AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE -- THE HOSTESS STUCK UP-COUNTRY -- WITH MISS LILLIAN AS USUAL THE LIFE OF THE PARTY. SHE TALKED AT LENGTH WITH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN BAMAKO.

15. PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE REUTRNED TO BAMAKO IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 1 AND SAID HE WOULD RECEIVE MISS LILLIAN AT 8:45 A.M. ON AUGUST 2. WHEN HE LEARNED OF HER EXHAUSTING TRIP, HE MADE AN ABSOLUTELY UNPRECEDENTED GESTURE BY CALLING ON MISS LILLIAN AT THE RESIDENCE. MISS LILLIAN CHARMED HIM AS EVERYONE ELSE. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE AND THE HOPE OF CONTINUED COOPERATION FOR MALI'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AT MISS LILLIAN'S REQUEST, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE SET FORTH THE BASIC TENETS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY

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TOWARD AFRICA, WHICH FOUND A RECEPTIVE PRESIDENTIAL EAR. MISS LILLIAN STRESSED HER SON'S INTEREST IN THE SAHEL AND INVITED PRESIDENT TRAORE TO COME SEE HER IN PLAINS. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO DO THAT.

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0287

INFO USICA WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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10. A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE RESIDENCE FOLLOWED, AND THEN THE  
DEPARTURE FOR THE AIRPORT FOR A FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE, FAREWELL  
BY ALL THE DIGNITARIES AND SOME OF THE WOMEN WHO HAD GREETED HER  
UPON ARRIVAL, AND "WHEELS UP" AT 11:25 A.M. AUGUST 2.

17. EVERYWHERE MISS LILLIAN WENT, CROWDS WERE WARM AND FRIENDLY  
AND RESPONDED IN KIND TO HER OBVIOUS ENTHUSIASM. HER MESSAGE OF  
SYMPATHY AND GENUINE INTEREST IN MALI AND THE SAHEL AND HER  
PLEDGES TO INFORM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE JOYFULLY RECEIVED. SHE  
AND HER HUGE PERSONALITY WERE AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS. THE  
ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPEATED OVER AND OVER TO THE  
AMBASSADOR, "WE ARE VERY HAPPY, WE ARE VERY HAPPY."

18. MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT WAS A MAJOR EVENT ON RADIO MALI AND IN  
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THE PRINTED PRESS, AS REPORTED BY USICA IN BAMAKO 3726.  
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